but which provision has been repealed long ago in British India. Section 472 of the Cochin Penal Code reads thus:—

"Who-ever being bound by lawful contract in writing to work for another person as an artificer, workman or labourer for a period not more than three years at any place within Cochin to which by virture of the contract he has been or is to be conveyed at the expense of such other, voluntarily desert the service of that other during the continuance of his contract, or without reasonable cause refuses to perform the service which he has contracted to perform, such service being reasonable and proper service, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one month, or with fine not exceeding double the amount of such expense, or with both; unless it shall appear that the employer has ill-treated him or neglected to perform the contract on his part." This provision was repealed in British India several years ago. So the Government thought that it is high time that it should be repealed here also. There will be no difference of opinion in this matter and therefore I move to introduce the Bill.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The title of the Bill is "A Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code".

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill may be taken into consideration forthwith suspending the Standing Order.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

President.—The Standing Order is Suspended.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I further move that the Bill may be finally passed on Thursday.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I beg to move an amendment that the Bill my be taken up and passed at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I second it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Motion put and carried.

Bill to amend the Cochin Press and Registration of Books Regulation.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran:—I beg leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Cochin Press and Registration of Books Regulation.

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This Bill again cannot, so far as I can see, be of a controversial nature at all. I can quite understand the Press Bill that was recently passed by this council being considered to be of a controversial nature. Here, this Bill only enacts that certain punishments should be prescribed for not fulfilling certain obligations laid down by the existing Press and Registration of Books Regulation. By accident it happened that although several duties were prescribed by the regulations, no punishments were provided for the infringement of those duties. This enactment only intends to prescribe some suitable punishments. The Bill itself states that "any person who does or omits to do anything and thus violates any of the provisions of this regulation or of any rule made thereunder, for which no penalty is provided by this regulation, shall on conviction before a Magistrate be punished with fine not exceeding Rs. 100 or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or with both". Certain declarations have to be made, certain returns have to be sent and certain other details have to be attended to by the printers and publishers. As it now stands no penalty has been prescribed and this Bill is to supply that.

Now as at present advised I am not intending to move that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee; but I shall leave that matter to the decision of this House. If it is the opinion of this House that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee the Government will have no objection. If on the other hand the non-official members agree with me in thinking that this Bill need not be sent to a Select Committee I shall move that the Bill may be taken into consideration. I now move that the Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the provisions for which no penalty has been provided.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I shall read them. "The keeper of every printing press who has made and subscribed the declaration under section 4 of Regulation 7 of 1097 shall submit to the Magistrate within whose local jurisdiction such press is situate, quarterly lists of all books printed in his press. The lists should be submitted on or before the 10th of the Malayalam month succeeding the quarter to which the list relates i. e. on the 10th of Vrischigam, Kumbham, Edavam and Chingam of every year. He shall likewise furnish any information that may from time to time be called for by the District Magistrate in carrying out the objects of the said Regulation". Now these provisions exist in the Bill but there is no penalty provided for

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the infringement of these rules. There are similar other matters also. It is only to cover these that this Bill is introduced.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—May I know who has to set the law in motion?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The District Magistrate.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—How does the proposed penalty compare with similar provisions elsewhere?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—This is more or less the same provisions that obtaining in British India.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The title of the Bill is "Bill to amend the Cochin Press and Registration of Books Regulation".

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Now the further question is whether this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. I have already submitted that personally I have no objection to do so. In a matter like this Government have no objection if a good section of the non-official Members desire that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. The proper course will be for me to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Any Member may move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee as the Bill provides penalties for offences violating some of the provisions contained in the Regulation. In order to consider the adequacy or otherwise of the provisions that are contained in the existing Regulation itself, it is desirable that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I therefore move that it may be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Law Member, Messrs. Ayyappan, P. C. Varkey, P. Krishna Menon and Dr. A. R. Menon.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move an amendment that the mover of the Select Committee may also be included.

President.—The motion for the Select Committee has not been seconded.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I second it.

President.—Amendment has also not been seconded.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I second it.

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Motion put and carried.

President.—I nominate the Law Member as Chairman of the Select Committee. The report should be submitted within a month.

The Cochin Civil Courts Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I beg to introduce the Cochin Civil Courts Regulation Amendment Bill. A mere reading of the statement of objects and reasons will explain the position. "It has been brought to the notice of the Government that on account of the peculiar language used in paragraph 2 of section 10 of Regulation III of 1076 some difficulties have arisen in practice with regard to the institution of suits in the Civil Courts functioning in the State. This Bill is intended to so amend the aforesaid paragraph as to obviate such difficulties". That is to say on account of a recent ruling of the Chief Court certain suits now being filed in the Munsiff's courts are not allowed to be filed there. The Chief Court so interpreted the language that this has been the result. Of course this is a matter, though not controversial, of far-reaching importance and I personally think that a Suit Valuation Act may also have to be passed. I shall be requesting presently that the House be pleased to appoint a committee composed mainly of lawyers to go into the question in detail. With these words I move that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—The section which gave the difficulty may be read.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The section as it stands here is this:—

"The jurisdiction of a Munsiff extends to all like suits and proceedings, not otherwise exempted from his cognizance, when the subject matter of such suits or proceedings is capable of being estimated at a money-value and such value does not exceed Rs. 2000".

The question was whether suit for easement as a matter of fact could be instituted in the Munsiffs' Courts. Such suits were being instituted in Munsiffs Courts and decided by them. Now the language of the British act is somewhat different. What it says is this:—

"The jurisdiction of a Dist. Munsiff extends to all like suits and proceedings, not otherwise exempted from his cognizance,

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